

AMENDMENTS

In the claims:

Please rewrite claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An isolated peptide comprising the peptide sequence of formula (I),
Xaa-Cys-Xab-Cys-Xac-Cys-Xad-Cys-Xae-Cys-Xaf-Cys-Xag (I)

in which:

Xaa is $-NH_2$ or a peptide residue consisting essentially of from 1 to 10 amino acids; preferably from 1 to 6 amino acids;

Xab is a peptide residue consisting essentially of from 1 to 10 amino acids, preferably 10;

Xac is a peptide residue of 3 amino acids;

Xad is a peptide residue consisting essentially of from 1 to 9 amino acids, preferably 9;

Xae is a peptide residue consisting essentially of from 1 to 7 amino acids, preferably 7;

Xaf is a peptide residue of 1 amino acid; and

Xag is $-OH$ or a peptide residue consisting essentially of from 1 to 5 amino acids, preferably 1 or 2 amino acids.

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Communication dated September 30, 2002 in the above-identified application. Claims 1-20, 22-44 and 46 are pending. By this amendment, Applicants have amended claim 1 to place the claims in condition for allowance. No new matter is introduced by this amendment.